

ADMINISTRATION ADDENDUM

RECOMMENDATION

A. ADMINISTRATION

To be voted on 5/23/17: Recommend approval of the following resolution:

Resolution of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Concerning Participation and Programmatic Efficiencies for Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

1. Approve the following resolution:

Resolution of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Concerning Participation and Programmatic Efficiencies for Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

WHEREAS, the West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School Board of Education (“Board”) believes in the inherent value that students need to balance physical, social, emotional and academic needs, and will maintain a supportive culture and build structures for the health, safety, and well-being of the Whole Child; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the educational goals and objectives of the District are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences and opportunities, including those that take place outside the regular classroom environment and program; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and appreciates the educational, social and emotional value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience in that games and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. In addition, programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development; and

WHEREAS, programs of athletic competition in the District include, but are not limited to, high school interscholastic athletic programs, and middle school interscholastic athletic programs where school teams or squads play teams or squads from other school districts, and/or intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district; and

WHEREAS, Board believes that the program of co-curricular activities provided by the District should be sufficiently varied to meet the wide range of pupils' vocational, recreational, social, and cultural needs and interests; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this resolution, co-curricular activities shall be those activities which are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall generally be conducted outside the regular school day, available to pupils who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by pupil participation in the processes of initiation,

planning, organizing and execution and shall ordinarily include marching band, band clubs, dramatic or musical presentations, co-curricular clubs and intramurals; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 2430, Co-Curricular Activities and Board Policy 2431, Athletic Competition clearly set forth the Board's core principles underlying the development, implementation and Administrative guidance for those programs – namely principles of equal access and opportunity for participation, and maintenance of the health, safety and emotional and physical well-fare of students. To that end, the Superintendent has been tasked with and has prepared procedures to implement co-curricular and athletic programs in the District that ensure all athletic and co-curricular activities are open to all eligible pupils and that all pupils are fully informed of the opportunities open to them; and

WHEREAS, the goal for each pupil participating in such activities shall be a balanced program of appropriate academic studies and activities to be determined by the school, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the pupil; and

WHEREAS, all pupils in good disciplinary and academic standing in the District have equal access to all co- curricular activities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender, national origin, ancestry, social or economic status, disability or handicap; and

WHEREAS, the District has a long-standing tradition of sharing resources, leveraging budgetary efficiencies and providing opportunities for all students. Examples of that tradition include the offering of both academic and co-curricular programs such as ESL, Senior Options, magnet Special Education programs, shared staffing, robotics and most recently the Board cooperative agreement making the opportunity to participate in Ice Hockey more readily available to students; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Board hereby reaffirms its belief and conviction all District pupils shall have the right to participate in athletic and co-curricular opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, District pupils must always satisfy all eligibility regulations (academic, behavioral, residential and attendance) in order to participate on co-curricular or athletic programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board will continue to make programmatic determinations to establish or re-establish an athletic program based upon sufficient student interest, budgetary considerations and the ability to safely field a team. In that regard, the Superintendent will make the recommendation to the Board in line with the two-year scheduling cycle established by the NJSIAA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board may, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, make determinations to eliminate, establish or re-establish a program, as necessary, based upon participation numbers, student safety, and budget efficiencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in order to afford District High School pupils equal access and the opportunity to participate, such pupils will continue to be required to participate in the co-curricular and/or athletic programs at their school of residence, which is where they attend for their academic program, unless a particular athletic program and/or co-curricular program

(excluding student run clubs) is not offered at their school residence, but is offered at another District High School;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in a such circumstance where a particular athletic program and/or co-curricular program (excluding student run clubs) is not offered at a pupil's school residence but is offered at another District High School, that pupil is hereby afforded the access and opportunity to participate in that particular athletic program and/or co-curricular program at another District High School;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, should a student register to participate for a sport or co-curricular activity that is not available at their home school, that the student must remain at their home school for their academic program, but will be allowed to participate at the neighboring school on a seasonal basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, pupils at the Middle School level will also continue to be required to attend their school of residence for their academic program, and will only be allowed to participate on another athletic program if that program is not available at their school of residence, but is offered at another District Middle School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in the case that a program is eliminated and is unable to maintain a program due to participation rates, student safety or budget efficiencies that students impacted by that programmatic reduction will be allowed to participate at the middle school and high school level; i.e. (HSS to HSN or HSN to HSS) (GMS to CMS or CMS to GMS); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Superintendent shall be directed to develop and implement the Board resolution to ensure equitable, reasonable and unbiased opportunities for our students with co-curricular and athletic opportunities immediately beginning with the 2017 – 2018 school year.